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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 2.8.2024

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Americas and the
Caribbean for 2024 part V and 2025 part II**

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on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2024 part V and 2025 part II

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009², and in particular Article 23 (1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2024 part V and 2025 part II, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual programme, part V for 2024 and part II for 2025. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and Caribbean⁴ for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: green transition, digital transformation and innovation, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, democratic governance, security and migration, as well as social cohesion and addressing inequalities. These priorities are further defined for the Caribbean under three priority areas: partnership for a green deal, partnership for economic resilience and trade, partnership for governance, security and human development.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 'Americas and the Caribbean' are to contribute to the EU's

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

⁴ Decision C(2021)9356 of 13.12.2021.

overall strategic objectives for its external action, as laid out by the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027. The regional MIP will focus on moving forward the EU's specific policy objectives and strategic interests vis-à-vis the Americas and the Caribbean, and on building partnerships on areas of shared interest with regional groups and countries throughout the hemisphere.

- (5) The action entitled 'Support to the Implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to Increase Trade and Investments with the EU (2024 – 2028) Phase 3' aims at the effective implementation and operation of the EPA to enable more trade and investments with the EU. The action will support the modernisation of the Intellectual Property and Innovation systems in CARIFORUM countries; Increase the use of internationally recognized quality infrastructure to support inter-regional and international trade; increase compliance by CARIFORUM States with international SPS measures, standards and procedures; and strengthen national capacities for EPA and CSME implementation at the national level.
- (6) The action entitled 'PharmaNext: The Caribbean-EU Bridge for advancing Pharma and Life Sciences for all', with the overall objective to support national and regional efforts to reinforce health resilience in the Caribbean region, in line with the Global Gateway Investment Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (8) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (10) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2024 part V and 2025 part II, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Support to the Implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to Increase Trade and Investments with the EU (2024 – 2028) Phase 3’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘PharmaNext: The Caribbean-EU Bridge for advancing Pharma and Life Sciences for all’ set out in Annex II.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 22 900 000⁵, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line The Caribbean 14.020141 of the general budget of the Union: EUR 10 500 000 in 2024 and EUR 12 400 000 in 2025.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.2 of the Annex I and point 4.3.2 of Annex II.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes⁶ to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

⁵ This amount must include the appropriations corresponding to assigned revenue, if they are available at the time the financing decision is adopted. This amount must also include the total amount of annual instalments (see above).

⁶These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex I and point 4.3.1 of Annex II.

Done at Brussels, 2.8.2024

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission